

MEMO

DATE: May 3, 2007

TO: Executive Committee and Regional Council

FROM: Liz Wojdak, Senior GIS Analyst, 213-236-1844, wojdak@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Earthquake Awareness and Preparedness Conference

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize cosponsorship with the City of Los Angeles and authorize supplemental appropriation of \$10,000 from the General Fund for the 2007 Earthquake Awareness and Preparedness Conference.

BACKGROUND:

Recognizing the important role played by local governments in earthquake preparedness, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department are jointly sponsoring a policy conference targeted for August 8, 2007, intended for, but not limited to, local elected officials and key staff. The objectives are to build awareness of the threat, improve regional coordination and cooperation, and address mitigation measures that cities can take to reduce death, injury, and property damage. Among others, officials from all the 187 cities and six counties in the region will be invited to participate in the conference. State and federal officials and representatives from ports, airports and utility providers will also be invited. Topics of the conference will include earthquake preparedness, response and recovery.

SCAG along with the City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department, United States Geological Survey (USGS), California Office of Emergency Services, the Southern California Earthquake Center, and others have joined together to form the Earthquake Country Alliance; a public-private partnership of leading earthquake professionals, emergency managers, government officials, business and community leaders.

The largest earthquake in Southern California's history occurred 150 years ago, on January 9, 1857. Known as the Fort Tejon Earthquake, it was a magnitude 7.9 on the San Andreas Fault, yet killed only two people because the region had so few inhabitants. The fault ruptured for over 300 miles between central California and Cajon Pass. From there, and further to the south, the San Andreas Fault has not had a major earthquake for over 300 years, and is the most likely source of a great earthquake in the United States. This future earthquake could devastate the Southern California region if we are not ready.

This earthquake will be so large that Southern California communities will be completely different after it happens. Hurricane Katrina has shown us that when devastation is great, our individual recovery depends on the recovery of others in the entire community. For this reason, the Earthquake Country Alliance has organized a "Dare to Prepare" campaign to bring Southern California communities together to "Talk About Our Faults" so we can be ready together for the upcoming earthquake.


MEMO

We can do nothing to prevent the quake, but we can do much to reduce the death, injury, and damages to properties and regional infrastructure. Local governments are key players in implementing the needed mitigation efforts.

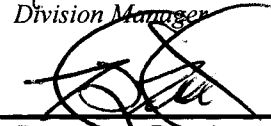
FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost for the conference is \$35,000 which includes renting the facility, meals and conference materials. We expect to receive sponsorship and other revenues of at least \$25,000. We are requesting budget of \$10,000 from the General Fund to be used as needed.

Reviewed by:


Division Manager

Reviewed by:


Department Director

Reviewed by:


Chief Financial Officer